

App. No 10/729,601
Amdt. dated August 5, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 116523.00090

Remarks

Claim 15 has been amended herein to clarify the invention.

In the office action of July 14, 2004, the Examiner stated that the application contains the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

1. FIGURES 2-7
2. FIGURES 8-11
3. FIGURE 12
4. FIGURE 15
5. FIGURE 16

APPLICANT HEREBY ELECTS GROUP 1, Figures 2-7 with traverse, and requests reconsideration thereof.

Applicant respectfully notes at the outset that it is not apparent what the Examiner contends separates the different species from one another. For example, FIG. 10 (GROUP II) illustrates an example of a roof bow blank that ultimately forms the completed roof bow of FIG. 12 (GROUP III). Additionally, the only difference between the roof bow of FIG. 12 and FIG. 2 is that FIG. 12 comprises (a rear view of) a vertical face with two pair of central vertical embossments 28, while the roof bow of FIG. 2 comprises a (a front perspective view of) single pair of central vertical embossments. In addition, FIG. 8b (GROUP II) is a side and close-up view of the roof bow of FIGS. 2-7 (GROUP I). As such, the applicant requests clarification in the Examiner's species criteria.

Based on the present species as set out by the Examiner, the applicant asserts that claims 1-24 are generic.

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The applicant requests reexamination of the species requirement, and respectively asserts that the species requirement should be grouped as follows.

Group I: FIGURES 1-14

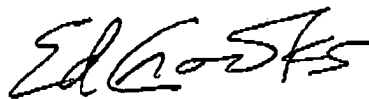
Group II: FIGURE 15

Group III: FIGURE 16

If the Examiner agrees with the applicant's species grouping, the applicant would elect Group I, FIGS. 1-14.

In accordance with the foregoing, reconsideration of the restriction requirement and an action on the merits are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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